

From: ender@ike.prioritynetworks.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 2:10pm
Subject: Concerned Citizen's comments on the MS/DOJ settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like express my deep misgivings about the proposed Microsoft settlement reached by the company and the Department of Justice. I will keep my comments brief, and more to a philosophical standpoint, as my groundings in anti-trust law are weak.

It seems to me that there is no punishment in this settlement. There are only provisions to guard against future unlawful behavior.

We have an amazingly powerful multinational corporation who has been running up against the law for its business practices for years who has been proven to have violated the law (when Judge Jackson's finding of antitrust violations were upheld). Where is the punishment? The proposed settlement is a slap on the wrist and a thin leash for Microsoft. The American Justice system is letting a convicted offender off the hook without then suffering for what they have done. Do you expect this to rehabilitate their behavior?

The modern justice system does not take organized drug dealers after they have been arrested and give them a punishment of behavior restrictions while they continue to live in the outside world. They are sent to prison.

Yes, these are two different types of crimes - but the basic precept is the same: criminals will strike again and again until their behavior is modified.

We are dealing with a corporation that is a criminal. These fact is beyond dispute. Are we treating them like one? I don't believe so. Maybe I'm alone in my opinion, but I think corporations that defy U.S. should pay for their mistakes. And with this current settlement I don't believe Microsoft is paying any real penalty - they have before them only restrictions on future behavior.

Please strengthen this settlement to teach Microsoft a lesson. I think it is obvious from the companies conduct before, and especially during the trial that they have a serious problem respecting the laws of this nation. It is time that this changes.

I am a computer professional, and have been administering all types of computer systems and networks for over seven years now. People in my profession see first had the negative results of Microsoft's illegal monopoly. I see the effects of their lawlessness everyday, and I ask you to put a firm, but just stop to it.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Claybaugh

Priority Networks
37 Fox St. #1
Boston, MA
617.822.7576